

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 9, 13 and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A printing control apparatus which ~~performs a printing process employing~~ is connectable to a plurality of ~~printing devices via a network~~, comprising:

~~a printing attribute~~ an acquisition unit configured to acquire an attribute of a printing job to be processed;

~~an adaptive environment~~ a determination unit configured to ~~obtain~~ determine a device combination capable of executing the ~~printing~~ job based on performance information representing ~~at least~~ performance of each of the plurality of ~~printing~~ devices and the acquired attribute of the ~~printing~~ job, the device combination including a first device and a second device which executes a process using a print product printed by the first device; ~~and~~

a display unit configured to display a process flow list representing a process flow to execute the ~~printing~~ job by ~~employing~~ using the device combinations ~~obtained by the adaptive environment determined by the~~ determination unit ~~and an operation to be performed by a user in the second device,~~

~~wherein the~~ process flow list ~~[[is]]~~ being a list in which display areas of a plurality of procedures which constitute the ~~printing~~ job are listed in the order of execution, ~~and wherein the plurality of procedures include~~ including a process procedure to be

performed by the first device, a work procedure in which a user moves the print product printed by the first device from the first device to the second device, and a process ~~procedures~~ procedure to be performed by ~~respective devices included in the device combination obtained by said adaptive environment determination unit~~, the second device; and

a receiving unit configured to receive, via the network, information indicating that the first device has completed the process procedure to be performed by the first device.

wherein said display unit changes a display form of a display area of [[a]] the process procedure which is to be performed ~~next by the second device~~, among the plurality of procedures in the process flow list in a case where the receiving unit receives the information.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when a plurality of device combinations exist, said ~~adaptive environment~~ determination unit determines an order of the device combinations under a condition designated in advance, and presents the device combinations in that order.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the performance information includes pieces of information on a printing speed, a cost, and a device installation place, and wherein said ~~adaptive environment~~ determination unit determines the order under a condition including any one of the printing speed, the cost, and the device installation place.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the apparatus further comprises a state acquisition means for
acquiring unit configured to acquire a process state of a printing device in use for
executing the ~~printing~~ job, and
wherein said display unit displays, emphatically in the process flow list, the
procedure which is to be performed next, among the plurality of procedures.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the
process flow list includes a message which prompts checking or replenishment of an
expandable used by the device as a preparation process.
7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the apparatus further comprises a second display unit configured to
display device combinations capable of executing the ~~printing~~ job so as to be able to select
one of the device combinations, and
wherein said display unit displays a process flow list of the printing process
by a device combination selected via said second display unit.
8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein,
when the attribute of the ~~printing~~ job contains color printing, said ~~adaptive environment~~
determination unit detects monochrome and color pages contained in the ~~printing~~ job, and

determines a device combination so as to print the monochrome page by a monochrome printing device.

9. to 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A printing control method for ~~performing a printing process employing~~ controlling a printing control apparatus which is connectable to a plurality of devices via a network, comprising:

~~a printing attribute~~ an acquisition step of acquiring an attribute of a ~~printing~~ job to be processed;

~~an adaptive environment~~ a determination step of ~~obtaining~~ determining a device combination capable of executing the ~~printing~~ job based on performance information representing ~~at least~~ performance of each of the plurality of devices and the acquired attribute of the ~~printing~~ job, the device combination including a first device and a second device which executes a process using a print product printed by the first device;
and

a display step of displaying a process flow list representing a process flow to execute the ~~printing~~ job by employing the determined device combinations and an operation method to be performed by a user in the second device,

~~wherein~~ the process flow list ~~[[is]]~~ being a list in which display areas of a plurality of procedures which constitute the ~~printing~~ job are listed in the order of execution, ~~and wherein~~ the plurality of procedures ~~include~~ including a process procedure to be performed by the first device, a work procedure in which a user moves the print product printed by the first device from the first device to the second device, and a process

~~procedures~~ procedure to be performed by ~~respective devices~~ included in the device combinations obtained in said ~~adaptive environment determination step~~; the second device; and

a receiving step of receiving, via the network, information indicating that the first device has completed the process procedure to be performed by the first device,

wherein said display step changes a display form of a display area of [[a]] the process procedure which is to be performed ~~next~~ by the second device, among the plurality of procedures in the process flow list in a case where the information is received in said receiving step.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11,

wherein the method further comprises a display step of displaying device combinations capable of executing the ~~printing~~ job on a display device so as to be able to select one of the device combinations, and

wherein, in the process flow ~~display presentation~~ step, process flow of the ~~printing~~ job by a device combination selected via the display device is presented.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable medium storing program code for causing a computer to execute a method for controlling a printing process employing control apparatus which is connectable to a plurality of printing devices, comprising:

~~a printing attribute~~ an acquisition step of acquiring an attribute of a ~~printing~~ job to be processed;

~~an adaptive environment~~ a determination step of ~~obtaining~~ determining a device combination capable of executing the ~~printing~~ job based on performance information representing ~~at least~~ performance of each of the plurality of printing devices and the acquired attribute of the ~~printing~~ job, the device combination including a first device and a second device which executes a process using a print product printed by the first device; ~~and~~

a display step of displaying a process flow list representing a process flow to execute the ~~print~~ job by employing the determined device combinations and an operation method to be performed by a user in the second device,

~~wherein~~ the process flow list [[is]] being a list in which display areas of a plurality of procedures which constitute the ~~printing~~ job are listed in the order of execution, ~~and wherein~~ the plurality of procedures ~~include~~ including a process procedure to be performed by the first device, a work procedure in which a user moves the print product printed by the first device from the first device to the second device, and a process procedures procedure to be performed by ~~respective devices included in the device combinations obtained in said adaptive environment determination step;~~ the second device; and

a receiving step of receiving, via the network, information indicating that the first device has completed the process procedure to be performed by the first device,

wherein said display step changes a display form of a display area of [[a]] the process procedure which is to be performed ~~next~~ by the second device, among the

plurality of procedures in the process flow list in a case where the information is received in the receiving step.

15. (Cancelled)